

# Deployed Airmen prepare for life at Keesler after Katrina

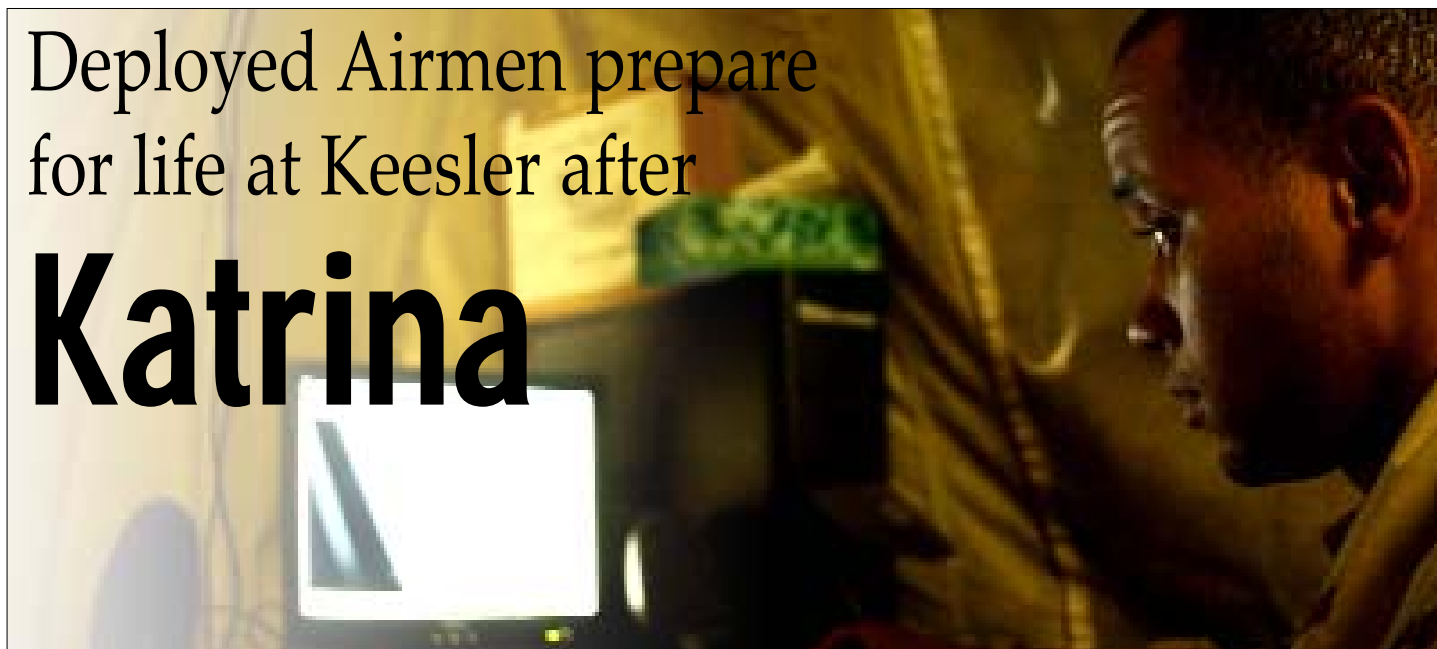


Photo by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

**Staff Sgt. Fred Mathis looks at pictures of the damage Hurricane Katrina caused at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Sergeant Mathis, who is deployed here from Keesler, has a pregnant wife and three-year-old daughter stationed there.**

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

In most cases, when a loved one deploys it's the family members back home who are worried, but for some the tables have turned here after the destruction Hurricane Katrina caused.

A group of Airmen here who are

deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., experienced the frustration of being away from their families when disaster struck back home.

"My initial reaction was concern for the safety of my husband, Eric, and three year old son Chase," said Capt. Lisa Iverson, aeromedical evacuation operations officer

at the contingency aeromedical staging facility. "I was also worried about all of the essential personnel back at Keesler who would be required to stay in the hospital and shelter."

Staff Sgt. Fred Mathis, aeromedical clerk at the CASF, shared many of these

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## It keeps going and going



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## Waiting for a ride home



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## Providing important care



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## Staying on top of the game

The 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, with help from Kellog Brown and Root contractors, replaced a \$5.2 million radar set with an overhauled system to continue controlling the skies over Iraq. According to Maj. Ben Kroop, 727th EACS chief of maintenance, the older radar had been deployed for an extended period of time and needed deep cleaning and refurbishment. Once rebuilt, it will be sent to another active duty or Air National Guard air control squadron to provide an essential step forward in keeping the tactical radar fleet fully functional for rapid response to worldwide contingencies.



(Above) Senior Airman Ryan Schlabaugh, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron ground radar systems journeyman, connects a sling to the new AN/TPS-75 radar antenna before it's lifted into position. (Left) Staff Sgt. Phil Horton, 727th EACS ground radar systems journeyman, provides support as KBR lifts the new radar antenna.

Photos by Senior Airman Jason Robertson



## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad AB members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The Red Tail Flyer will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad AB population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns.

The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at [332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:332cc.action-line@blab.centaf.af.mil). Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

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The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

**A 147th Fighter Wing F-16C+ taxis down the runway following its mission Sunday where it reached the 6,000 flying-hour mark. It's the first F-16C+ model to reach this milestone and one of only three F-16 models to accomplish the feat.**

## F-16C achieves 6,000 hour milestone

By Master Sgt. **Chris Haug**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

While deployed to Balad Air Base with the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, an F-16C+ Fighting Falcon surpassed its 6,000 flying-hour milestone Sunday.

This milestone is very rare and is the first time an F-16C has achieved this, according to Michael Casey, a military contractor here who works for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, the aircraft's manufacturer. Casey said only three other F-16 models have reached the 6,000 flying-hour mark – none of which were the F-16C+ model.

The designers of the F-16C+ forecasted the design life to be 5,000 flying hours, according to Lt. Col. Kevin McGlaughlin, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing safety officer.

On the day the aircraft passed its milestone, it was piloted by Capt. Mark "Fook" Youens on an Operation Iraqi Freedom combat mission over the skies of Iraq. Its crew chief was Staff Sgt. Andrew Brice. Both are home based at the 147th Fighter Wing at Ellington Field, Texas. The aircraft has been with the 147th FW since December 1996.

Sergeant Brice, who's been working on F-16C+s for five years now, said he and his crew were very excited about being a part of the aircraft's history.

"It's really gratifying to know that all of the hard work that is done day in and day out by all of us ends up becoming something special," Sergeant Brice said. "The fact that it was done while flying combat sorties here in Iraq, as opposed to a daily sortie flight back home, really makes it extra special."

The aircraft was first put into service at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., in October 1985. Captain Youens was 11 years old then; Sergeant Brice was just seven years old.

While based at Shaw, the aircraft deployed to Operation Desert Storm and flew 38 combat missions. Then in February 1992, the aircraft moved to the northwest to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. Two years later it was moved to Luke AFB, Ariz., in July 1994.

Since its arrival at Balad in May 2005, it has accrued more than 500 combat flying hours in support of OIF.

"The fact that an F-16C+ has reached this milestone is testimony to not only the professionalism of the Air Force maintenance program but also the contractors who have provided continual upgrades and improvements to the aircraft through the Service Life Extension Program," said Colonel McGlaughlin.

The SLEP program provides upgraded engines and parts to the F-16 program, saving maintenance hours and extending the life of the aircraft.



## Contact information concerning Hurricane Katrina

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — For information relating to Hurricane Katrina, to include Stop Movement and entitlements, the following phone numbers and Web sites are available:

The Air Force Personnel Center Personnel Readiness Center can be contacted toll free at (800) 435-9941. The PRC can provide information about bases affected by Stop Movement and provide instructions for contacting a person's unit control center.

The AFPC Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil) contains information on entitlements for Air Force people affected by the hurricane, such as limited evacuation allowances and expenses for lodging, transportation, meals and incidentals. Click on the "Hurricane Katrina" tab. The allowances can be viewed by at the AFPC Web site by clicking the "military" tab, then the "readiness" tab and then the "readiness support" link. Once there, Airmen can click on links outlining Hurricane Katrina entitlements.

The Keesler Web site at [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil) can provide local updates on recovery efforts at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Air Force Reserve Command personnel assigned to New Orleans and Keesler should check in with their units immediately if they have not done so.

Those assigned to the 926th Fighter Wing should call the command post at Barksdale AFB, La., at (318) 456-9233 for accountability. Reservists and civilians assigned to the 403rd Wing may check in at (888) 436-2246 at extension 53177.

If unable to reach those numbers, AFRC people can report their current status, whereabouts, or get answers to questions concerning Air Force hurricane operations by contacting the AFPC Personnel Readiness Center at (800) 435-9941.

For questions that cannot be answered by AFPC, reservists may contact the AFRC headquarters staff at the following extensions by dialing toll free at (800) 223-1784: civilian personnel, 71206; personnel readiness center, 71262; family readiness director, 71241; chief personnel, 70390.

The AFRC command center – open 24/7 – is available at extension 70680.

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### KEESLER, from Page 1

concerns for his family as well.

"My wife is pregnant and I have a three-year-old daughter back home, so I was very worried initially," he said. "My wife has a mission critical job so she had to stay there (Keesler)."

After the initial shock was over, these Airmen's minds were put at ease just knowing their families were safe and out of harm's way.

"When the evacuation order was given, my family evacuated to Galveston, Texas, to stay with my parents," said Captain Iverson. "A great weight was lifted knowing that they were out of harm's reach and I could focus 100 percent on the CASF mission."

Sergeant Mathis also feels better knowing his family is safe.

"I have only slept about 12 hours since the hurricane struck a couple of days ago," he said. "Last night I finally got a full night's sleep."

Many deployed members here are experiencing the reality that even though their rotation is coming to an end, they may not have a home to return to.

"Right now, I don't even know if I will have a functional house or vehicle once I return," the captain said. "It has been difficult, because we have to expect and prepare for the worst but hope for the best."

Sergeant Mathis doesn't know how badly his apartment was

damaged from the hurricane either.

"I know my car is gone but I don't know what the inside of my apartment looks like," said Sergeant Mathis. "I do know the building is still standing though."

Even the Keesler dorms were damaged from the storm.

"I live on the first floor of the dorms and I have heard that it's totally flooded," said Airman 1st Class Ryan Phillips, medical technician at the CASF.

Most of these Airmen are scheduled to return home in the next week but now they don't know where they will end up.

"What was briefed is that we will stay at our port of entry until we hear otherwise," said Airman Phillips.

"We will have to be patient and very flexible and trust that the Air Force always takes care of its people," Captain Iverson reassured.

Their thoughts may be on the people back home, but their actions are still with the patients here.

"I'm just trying to stay focused on our job," said Airman Phillips. "I'm staying busy taking care of the patients and giving our replacements a smooth transition."

Overall, these Airmen's spirits are high and their thoughts are on the ones they love.

"My family is a very strong one and we will be fine regardless of the outcome of the storm," said the captain. "We have to be grateful for the little things and I am very grateful that my family is safe."

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**“ We have to be grateful for the little things and I am very grateful that my family is safe. ”**

- Capt. Lisa Iverson

332nd EMDG aeromedical evacuation operations officer

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# Going my way?

*Airmen wait for a ride home at Balad's passenger terminal*

By Master Sgt. **Chris Haug**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

With the thousands of people transiting through the passenger terminal at Balad Air Base, Iraq, this month, the passenger terminal is filled to the brim.

Part of the increase in volume is because of Air Expeditionary Force rotation 5/6 heading out after four months of duty and being replaced by AEF rotation 7/8.

Army Sgt. John Barner, noncommissioned officer in charge of the movement control team, 430th Adjutant General Replacement Company, says the key to getting through the PAX terminal smoothly is to "remain calm and be patient."

Items to have ready include your military identification card, a copy of your orders, your firearm lock box key, your flight mission number and a good book to

pass the time.

"We are currently using every tent we have to give people a place to wait out of the weather," said Sergeant Barner. "We don't have many phones and it sometimes gets hectic during these rotations."

The sergeant said that's especially true this month. He expects more than double his normal volume, exceeding more than 14,000 people transiting the passenger terminal.

Inside the tents, some people sleep, some read and some sit and think about the time they've spent away from home and family, and also the friends they're leaving behind.

"I'm so happy to be going home," said Staff Sgt. Jared Hershman, an intelligence analyst attached to the Army's 42nd Infantry Division, who spent a year here. "But a lot of the people I've met here I consider family. It is tough leaving that."



**Staff Sgt. Eric Larson, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron (right), checks in with passenger terminal personnel.**

Acting as a liaison between the Air Force Air Transportable Operations Center and the passenger terminal, one Air Force member works with the movement control team and contractors keeping them abreast of when flights are scheduled and how many seats will be available.

"We provide the flight schedule, destinations and seat releases so they can assign people to the seats," said Staff Sgt. Moses Peng, air transportation journeyman, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Photos by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

**Staff Sgt. Jared Hershman, an intelligence analyst attached to the 42nd Infantry Division, watches coverage of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina while waiting for his flight out of Balad. Sergeant Hershman said he's excited to be going home**

# Balad medical team cares for Iraqi youth

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

An Expeditionary Pediatric Cardiology Team from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group paid a visit to Baghdad to examine 57 Iraqi children assessed with complex congenital heart disease, offering cardiac screenings that could be their only chance for survival Aug. 29 through 31.

According to Master Sgt. Antonio Rita, 332nd EMDG independent duty medical technician, Dr. (Lt. Col.) Kirk Milhoan, 332nd EMDG flight surgeon and pediatric cardiologist, was asked to provide his expertise by the Multinational Force-Iraq surgeon to assist the local national children.

These potential surgical candidates received advanced echocardiogram screening to determine if they would qualify for operations provided by non-governmental organizations willing to take on their cases.

Dr. Milhoan and Sergeant Rita traveled to Baghdad to answer the call for help.

In two days, the Airmen screened all the children. Sergeant Rita said that the signs of serious health problems were obvious when he met these patients.

"These children, who should have been active and healthy, had a blue hue to their skin and were very weak, signifying that their tiny bodies weren't getting enough oxygen," he said.

Patients traveled days from northern and southern Iraq and waited patiently for up to 11 hours to see the doctor. The medical team had their hands full, knowing that this screening could dramatically affect these children's lives.

"It's always exciting and always a challenge," Sergeant Rita said of aiding people who can't always get the care they need.

"On this mission we knew we knew it was absolutely critical that we get it right the first time, this one contact (with a pediatric cardiologist) could be their only contact; they may not get a second chance," Sergeant Rita added.



Lt. Col. Kirk Milhoan, 332nd EMDG flight surgeon and pediatric cardiologist, has his photo taken with an Iraqi child after doing a cardiac screening. 332nd EMDG personnel provided screening to 57 children.



When worn, body armor will include Level IV Small Arms Protective Inserts (SAPI) and will be securely fastened at all times. Body armor will not be loosely carried over the shoulder or worn open (vented). This information can be found in 332 AEWI 36-2903 *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, Section 4.2.



**Right**



**Wrong**



# Three important keys to mission success

By Maj. Travis C. Harsha

332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander

We each play an important role in delivering combat airpower to help bring freedom to the Iraqi people. To best accomplish our mission, we each must know and do our job the best we can; be mentally, physically and spiritually balanced and work as a team.

Know and do your job the best you can. Know how your job fits in with your unit's mission and higher missions. This will enable you to know priority of tasks, skills and resources needed to accomplish the mission.

You should also continually look for more effective and efficient ways to do your job and institutionalize them in your organization. It's a shame when we have Air Expeditionary Force changeover and the lessons have to be learned all over again because great ideas weren't institutionalized. Focus on the entire process you contribute to and invite stakeholders to share ideas and develop and execute action plans to make the process and mission better.

If you're a supervisor, create an environment which encourages and rewards continuous improvement; this requires leadership at all levels. As retired General Mike Loh, former Air Combat Command commander, once said, "You must make a leadership commitment to an operating style that inspires trust, teamwork, and a spirit for continuous improvement." To do your job well, you must also be balanced.

Be balanced mentally, physically and spiritually. Think of these as three pillars supporting you as you support the mission

and each other. To be mentally balanced requires keeping a healthy perspective on life, your job and yourself. Take the time to reflect, relax and appreciate life. Keep a positive attitude and remember the serenity prayer.

To be physically balanced requires being fit to fight. Eat, exercise and sleep right. You'll feel better, think better and tackle your job and stress better. Finally, be spiritually balanced to restore your energy. Bottom line, take care of yourself so you can take care of the mission and each other.

Finally, work as a team. We're here from different bases, services and countries, but we're united in a mission to help bring freedom to the Iraqi people, creating a safer and better world. We depend on each other to accomplish our mission and protect each other.

We must live and work as a team. Talk to each other about what you bring to the fight and how you can help better accomplish the mission. Help each other maintain balance.

Look after your wingman. Don't forget your team includes your loved ones back home. Keep in touch. Thank them for all their sacrifices and support allowing you to be your best to accomplish the mission and maintain balance.

Remember, the mission, your life and the lives of others' depend on you knowing and doing your job the best you can; being mentally, physically and spiritually balanced; and working as a team.

I'm extremely proud and honored to serve with each of you during this historic and noble operation in this legendary wing. Thank you for your service, sacrifice and support.

**“ Bottom line, take care of yourself so you can take care of the mission and each other. ”**

- Maj. Travis Harsha

332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander

## Katrina assistance

The Department of Defense advises military members who wish to provide immediate assistance to Hurricane Katrina disaster relief, prior to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, to make cash donations directly to relief organizations. Three organizations recognized by President George W. Bush are The American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. FEMA has a list of organizations that can be found at <http://www.fema.gov>.

## Balad AB Religious Schedule

### Protestant - Traditional

Sundays  
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 11 a.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Gospel

Sundays  
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel

### Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays  
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent 29th SPT BN

### Wednesdays

7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays  
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Latter Day Saints

Sundays  
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays

8 a.m. Provider Chapel

### Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays

4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Roman Catholic Mass

Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays

5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel,

11 a.m. Provider Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for Special Ops personnel only)

### Church of Christ

Sunday

11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245 ATS/Conf. room

### Islamic Prayer

Fridays

13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Jewish Prayer

Fridays

6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

## Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

### Chief Master Sgt. Harold Clark

**Home station:** Langley Air Force Base, Va.

**Duty title:** 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief

**Hobbies:** Boating, reading, Celtic highland games

**How do you contribute to the mission?**

Working for the commander, I ensure that people have everything they need to get the job done.

**What is your favorite aspect of deployment?**

The unity of purpose in people. Watching troops rise to the occasion.

**Besides your family, what do you miss back home?** Boating with my daughter.

## Know what this is?

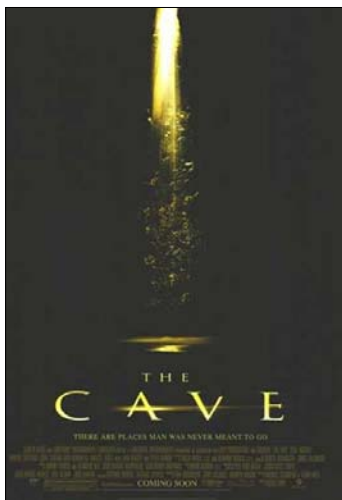


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). Last week's photo of the back of an Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon was first identified by Maj. Ben Kroop, 727th Air Control Squadron.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - Rebound  
6 p.m. - The Cave  
9 p.m. - The Cave

### Saturday, September 10

3 p.m. - Dark Water  
6 p.m. - Rebound  
9 p.m. - The Cave

### Sunday, September 11

3 p.m. - War of the Worlds  
6 p.m. - The Cave  
9 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

### Monday, September 12

3 p.m. - Bewitched

6 p.m. - Dark Water  
9 p.m. - Rebound

### Tuesday, September 13

3 p.m. - War of the Worlds  
6 p.m. - The Cave  
9 p.m. - Dark Water

### Wednesday, September 14

3 p.m. - The Cave  
6 p.m. - Rebound  
9 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded

### Thursday, September 15

3 p.m. - Herbie: Fully Loaded  
6 p.m. - Dark Water  
9 p.m. - The Cave

